

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-504

Magi No. 2105045733

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

CHESAPEAKE BAY SAILING LOG CANOE FLEET THEMATIC GROUP

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ISLAND LARK

and/or common log canoe

2. Location

street & number Higgins Marine Service,
Carpenter Street n/a not for publication

city, town St. Michaels n/a vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland 024 county Talbot 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name T.C. & Blaine duPont

street & number P.O. Box 727 telephone no.: 745-5010

city, town St. Michaels state and zip code Maryland 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. n/a liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

date 1984 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. T-504

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

ISLAND LARK is a 34'11" sailing log canoe with a racing rig. She has a beam of 6'9-1/8". She is double-ended with a sharp, raking stem, longhead bow, and sharp stern. Log-built with carvel-fitted rising planks, the canoe has a sleek appearance. Her hull, painted white, has been fiberglassed. Privately owned the canoe is raced on the Eastern Shore under No. 16.

ISLAND LARK has typical Tilghman-style log construction, with carvel-fitted rising planks. Her bow is sharp, with a straight, raking stem and a clipper longhead. The stern is sharp with a rudder hung outboard and a tiller led through the bumpkin. The canoe has a centerboard fitted through the bottom log. The long, straight, square-off bowsprit is set up with heavy standing rigging--a bobstay and four bowsprit shrouds, adjustable by means of a chainplate set into the sheer rail.

The rig consists of two masts with adjustable rake, set into square steps in thwarts fore and aft. The foremast and mainmast are unstayed. Sails are a mainsail, foresail, and jib. The main and foresails have clubs and sprits, and there are extra light sails for racing depending on conditions. Also for racing the canoe is equipped with a narrow, wishbone-shaped bumpkin with a backrest which hangs over the stern and is painted white, and varnished springboards for balance. There are narrow, strip-planked varnished washboards forming a peapod-shaped cockpit, lined with a low coaming, and cleat railings on the washboards.

The hull is finished with fiberglass and is painted white with brown bottom paint. The washboards, bowsprit, and rubrail are varnished bright. Trailboards mounted on the longhead have carved and gilded letters, ISLAND LARK, on a dark green background, decorated with scrolls and two small fields of the black-and-yellow checks and red-and-white shield of the Maryland state flag.

8. Significance

Survey No. T-504

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901 Builder/Architect Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G ☒ none

Level of Significance: ☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the last 2? surviving traditional Cheasapeake Bay racing lot canoes that carry on a tradition of racing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that has existed since the 1840's. In addition, it is a surviving representative of the oldest indigenous type of boat on the Bay -- the working log canoe -- which was developed in the 17th century by early European settlers from the aboriginal dugout canoe.

Used for transportation and for harvesting the rich bounty of the Bay, log canoes changed little over the centuries. Constructed of from two to seven logs and ranging in length from 20 to 35 feet, they were rigged with one or two sharp-headed spritsails with or without a jib set on raking, unstayed pole masts. Easily and cheaply constructed, some 6300 existed in Bay waters in the 1880s. The working canoes first began to be raced in 1840 and by the 1870s area boatbuilders were building canoes specifically for racing, with lighter, thinner hulls and sharper lines. As mast heights increased to increase sail area the canoes became inherently unstable, necessitating the use of springboards and human ballast. Also part of the racing rig is the outrigger added for balance and to enable the sail tender to sit beyond the overlarge mainsail.

With the invention of the gasoline engine many log canoes were converted to power for oystering, but were then converted back to sail as interest in racing waxed and waned over the years. After peak years of popularity in the 1880s and 1890s, interest in log canoe racing waned in the first two decades of the 20th century only to be revived again in the 1920s. The popularity of racing, spearheaded by the Miles River Yacht Club, continued unabated until the present day, although the number of vessels active in the fleet has varied considerably.

ISLAND LARK is significant as being one of the older boats in the racing log canoe fleet but little is known of her early history except for the fact that she was built in 1901. She was restored by John Chamberlin in 1971, one of a group of 4 vessels restored in the years 1966 to 1971 (the others, ROVER, PERSISTENCE, S.C. DOBSON) during a mini-revival of interest in log canoe racing. The restoration of ISLAND LARK inspired Chamberlin to build his own canoe--TENACEOUS--in the late 1960's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

T-504

Brewington, Marion V., Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes and Bugeyes (Cambridge, Md.: Cornell Maritime Press, 1963)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name St. Michaels, MD

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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3	9	3	8	6	0
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4	2	9	3	5	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic boundary of this movable vessel is co-terminous with the hull. The vessel is usually stored at the location indicated in Item 2.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Witty and Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

organization Maryland Historical Society

date May 1984

street & number 201 West Monument Street

telephone (301) 685-3750

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland 21201

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

T-504

ISLAND LARK (log canoe)

St. Michaels, Maryland

ISLAND LARK is a 34'11" sailing log canoe in the racing fleet. She is log-built with carvel-fitted rising planks, a longhead bow, sharp stern, and a beam of 6'9-1/8". Her sailing rig consists of two masts with adjustable rake that carry a foresail, mainsail, and large jib. ISLAND LARK gains her significance for being one of the last 22 surviving Chesapeake Bay racing log canoes that carry on a tradition of racing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that has existed since the 1840's. ISLAND LARK is of special interest as being one of the older vessels in the racing log canoe fleet, having been built sometime before 1901, but little is known of her early history. She was restored and converted to a racing rig in 1971.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. T-504

Magi No. 2105045733

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ISLAND LARK

and/or common log canoe

2. Location

street & number Carpenter Street not for publication

city, town St. Michaels vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Talbot

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
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	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
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city, town St. Michaels state and zip code Maryland 21663

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. T-504

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
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☐ ruins
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Survey No. T-504

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<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1901	Builder/Architect	Unknown
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or			
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This vessel is significant as being one of the last 22 surviving traditional Cheasapeake Bay racing lot canoes that carry on a tradition of racing on the Eastern Shore of Maryland that has existed since the 1840's. In addition, it is a surviving representative of the oldest indigenous type of boat on the Bay -- the working log canoe - which was developed in the 17th century by early European settlers from the aboriginal dugout canoe.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. T-504

Marion V. Brewington, Chesapeake Bay Log Canoes and Bugeyes (Cambridge, Md.: Cornell Maritime Press, 1963)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne Witty/ M.E. Hayward

organization Maryland Historical Society

date 5/84

street & number 201 W. Monument St.

telephone 685-3750

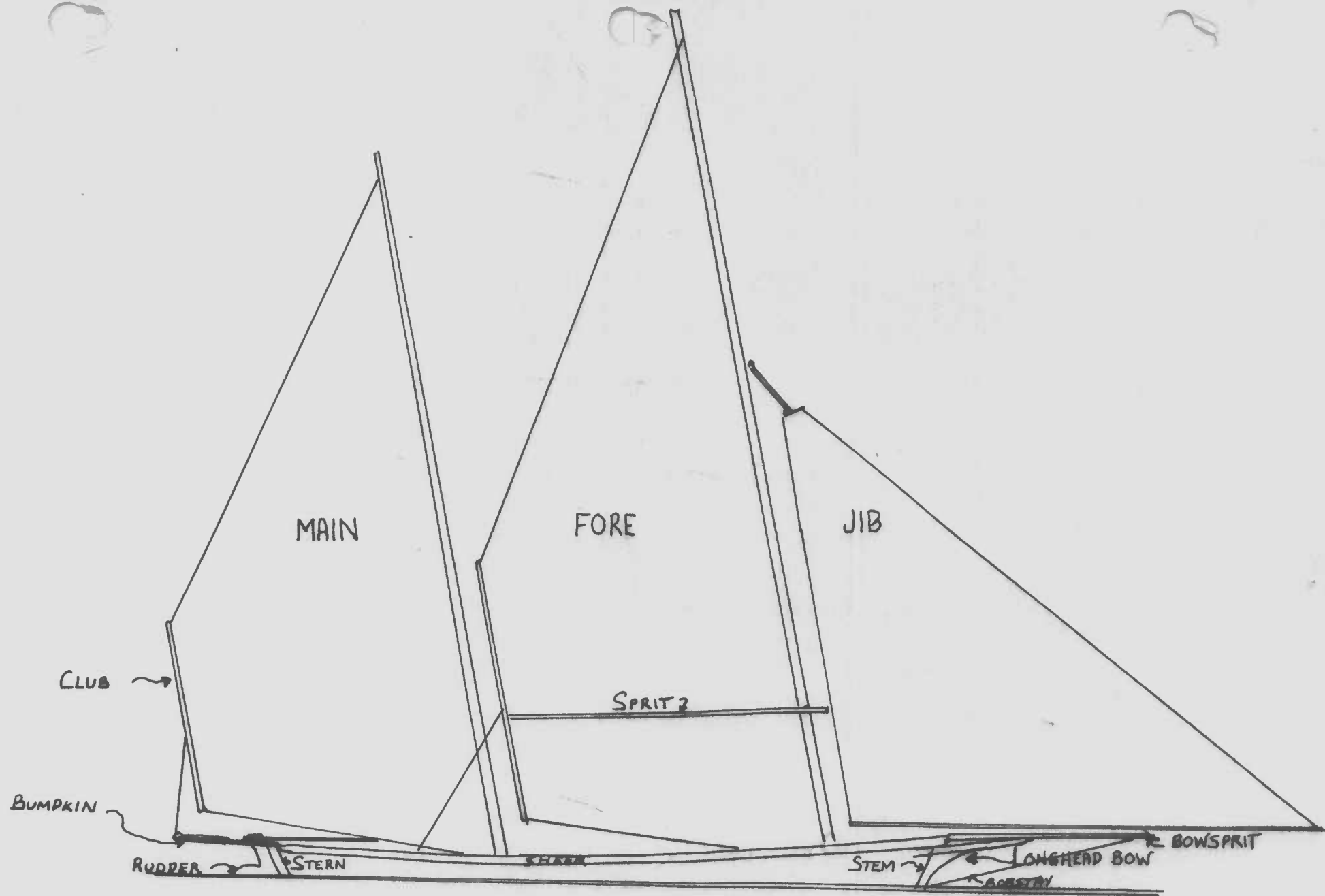
city or town Baltimore

state Maryland 21201

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return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



SAIL PLAN OF TILGHMAN ISLAND CANOE after drawing by J. G. Earle

T-504



T-504

ISLAND LARK
St. Michaels, Md

port side
M. C. Wootton 5/84



T-504

ISLAND LARK

St. Michaels, Md

Port side, under sail

A.E. Witty 7/84



T-504

ISLAND LARK
St. Michaels, Md

port stern
M. C. Wootton 5/84



T-504

ISLAND LARK

St. Michaels, Md

port bow - trailboard

M. C. Wootton 5/84



T-504

ISLAND LARK

St. Michaels, Md

interior hull

M. C. Wootton 5/84